



Child Rights International

CRI WELFARE UPDATE ON THE ALLEGED MARRIAGE CASE

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Child Rights International (CRI) issues this release concerning the welfare of the child allegedly involved in a child marriage, following our thorough investigation.

As part of the rehabilitation and maintenance programme, our investigation points to the fact that Social Welfare has engaged a clinical psychologist to have a thorough discussion with the child in question with the collaborative effort of two (2) case managers and a care giver, and certain outcomes have been reached in that regard: the child is in good health and of sound mind.

Secondly, our investigation shows that the Department of Social Welfare under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, based on the conclusion, has decided to possibly release the child to her biological parents by Friday 12 April, 2024 with the state having exclusive right for visit and guidance. This presents an opportunity for her to receive love, care, and support from the family, facilitating her smooth transition back into the community and school.

Our investigation also points to the fact that, based on the conclusions, the child will be in a boarding facility to enable the state to still have control over the protection of the child. We believe that the boarding facility will offer a stable environment for the child, allowing for proper monitoring and supervision by the state and the family.

Furthermore, based on the social inquiry report, it has been established that the biological family's status is above average, ensuring a conducive environment for the child's well-being. Therefore we acknowledge the measures taken by social welfare to ensure the safety and welfare of the child, and we fully support any decision arrived at by the department of social welfare with respect to the protection and care of the child.

We recommend that more attention and investment must go into building the social structure of the child to make integration more effective and efficient.

CRI remains committed to providing support and will continue working closely with the social welfare authorities to ensure the best possible outcome for the child's welfare.

Signed,



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"An Adult Is A Child Who Has Survived"